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ception of the life of the A. E. F. and of France in 1918 than is found in many more pretentious works. It is well written. Americans who would visualize the struggle during 1918 would do well to read this little volume of letters.

D. D. LESCOHIER

The American army in the European conflict. By Colonel De Chambrun and Captain De Marenches. (New York: Macmillan company, 1919. 436 p. \$3.00)

This book is the work of two French officers attached to General Pershing's staff in France. The translation, done by the authors themselves, is admirable. "High Alsace" on page 266 is the one unidiomatic term noted by the present reviewer in the 420 pages of text. The book, without undertaking to criticise or point out shortcomings, is an account and an admirable one of the organization and operations of the A. E. F. as seen by an officer on the general staff. As such, its careful and detailed accounts of the scheme of organization of divisions, corps, and armies, of the elaborate system of schools for all arms of the service, of the ramifications of the services of supply, will be a revelation to the average civilian reader, and, if he has a taste for organization, a most instructive one. The accounts of operations in their detail varies with the position of the general staff as the armies expanded; thus the early trench operations of regiments and divisions are told in detail, but in the Argonne offensive the author can hardly notice a smaller unit than an army corps.

The reviewer noted one or two minor slips inevitable in a work covering so great a field. Certain divisions were armed practically to the end with the 1903 model rifle. The gas mask used was either the British "S. B. R." or a modification of it; and the French mask also was used along with the other till June, 1918 (p. 86). But it is hardly fair to pick small technical flaws in a book which presents to the non-military reader an account of organization and operations so admirably free from technical mystifications.

THEODORE C. PEASE

From Upton to the Meuse. With the Three-hundred-and-seventh infantry. A brief history of its life and of the part it played in the great war. By Kerr Rainsford, captain, Three-hundred-and-seventh infantry. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1920. 298 p. \$2.00 net)

In writing the history of the 307th infantry, Captain Rainsford shows a commendable caution in the use of documentary evidence. He recog-

nizes the fact that the existence of a written order for an attack is not conclusive evidence the attack was undertaken as ordered, especially if one knows that the order reached the troops concerned after 11 hour. He recognizes further that the value of a position sketch or of a message locating a front line by coördinates is dependent on the ability of the person who sent it to read a map, an accomplishment by no means to be universally taken for granted. Some documentary evidence Captain Rainsford uses, supplementing it at every turn by recent personal recollections and observations made on the ground only a few months after the operations described. The present reviewer is inclined to think this the safest basis for historical work on modern military operations.

The application of this method in the present instance is necessarily impressionistic. One gains the impression of the task of putting under military organization and discipline the civilian, often non-English-speaking recruits who arrived at Camp Upton in September, 1917. The lay reader may gather from the account some of the many individual hardships and sufferings entailed by draft boards that disregarded just claims for exemption on grounds of physical disability or of dependency. Anyone who has served can multiply them from his personal observation. Finally one gains the impression of the creation from a mob of civilians of a real military unit.

The accounts of the fighting are also impressionistic, giving one the recurring picture of an advance in insufficient numbers, an outburst of enemy fire, casualties, and a falling-back. The account of operations on the Vesle is a little indefinite. On page 86 an attack order gives as objective "the retaking of all positions lost by the 308th Infantry," though nothing is said about this reverse. The operations for the relief of the "lost battalion" it is easier to trace, though that and indeed all operations in the Argonne would be better illustrated by better and more legible maps. The author claims the credit of the rescue for his regiment. One rather questions his reflection on the rarity with which the Germans were driven from positions they really intended to hold. If that were the case why were they defeated?

The illustrations are partly from sketches, partly from photographs, and are very good. The text is the work of a finished literary craftsman. One wishes the author had not laid so much emphasis on General Pershing's estimate of the division at the farewell review. He is sufficiently a man of the world to appraise statements made under such conditions at their proper value. He may argue justification in the fact that the book is intended for regimental consumption, but the style in which he has written it ensures it a much wider audience.

T. C. P.